

February 23, 2015

RE: HB 5366

Submitted to: Connecticut Labor and Public Employees Committee

To whom it may concern:

My company, William B. Meyer, Inc. (WBM) has been continually operating in the State of Connecticut since 1915. Throughout the last century, the company has employed hundreds of individuals and I am proud of our track record of giving each of them the opportunity to earn a living.

For approximately the last 40 years, WBM has utilized an independent contractor model for a number of our business units including the household moving and courier divisions. Independent contractors operate tractor-trailers and straight trucks in the moving businesses while the contractors in our courier operation own and operate full size cargo vans.

Throughout the last 40 years, our contractors have been free as independent businessmen to work for other service providers. In 2013 we were satisfied to learn that the motor carriers in Connecticut were granted relief that required their contractors to work for more than one company. At the time, the DOL opposed the inclusion of the courier industry basing its decision on gross vehicle weight. In effect the size of the vehicle owned by the operator dictated who was covered by the decision and who was not. Running a business that requires many sized vehicles to succeed, I am at a loss to understand the logic behind the exclusion of some of our contractors. The contractors who operate vans in support of our services are some of the best in the business and have happily helped us for decades. They enjoy, and quite frankly demand, their independence. They manage their own businesses and would have it no other way. Yet, they find themselves in a strange circumstance here at WBM. Some of their independent colleagues have been granted relief based solely on the vehicle that they operate from the need to work for more than one company, yet they have not.

However, a new bill is being presented, HM5366, that will correct this decision and add the small vehicle courier operators to the list of exclusions. I respectfully request that you support this bill as a sensible and logical step in support of these small businessmen.

Respectfully,  
Thomas M. Gillon, Sr.  
President  
William B. Meyer, Inc.